

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 is pending in this application. Claim 1-3 is amended herein to clarify the invention.

As amended herein, the claim 1 indicates that data transmitted from a laundry machine in a coin laundry store and data images taken by a camera in the store are transmitted to a central controller device that is at a location other than the laundry store. Support is found, for example, at specification page 14, which identifies central controller device as element no. 16, which is shown at the administrator site 15 in Figs.1-4.

The data transmitted to remote locations 15, 19 can be monitored and reviewed virtually simultaneously, and based on the transmitted data, which is displayed on a monitor, an administrator can, in real time, control switching of the capture mode and movement of the capture point. In the event of trouble, the administrator can check real time images of the store and the specific locations in the store. This allows the administrator to take prompt and appropriate action to address the problem at hand.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Kuroda (U.S. Patent No. 5,859,778) in view of Fujimoto (U.S. Patent Appl. Pub No. 2003/0211885).

Kuroda is cited for allegedly teaching a remote management system for laundry machines used in a laundromat, whereby sensors associated with the laundry machines transmit data to a controller, which information is then transmitted by public telephone line to a management company at a remote location. Kuroda allegedly teaches all elements of claim 1, but for a network camera. Fujimoto discloses a game facility monitoring system that is alleged to employ video camera for monitoring activity in the game facility. See Fujimoto, paragraph [0007], and paragraph [0062]. However, it is respectfully submitted, that contrary to the examiner's assertion, Fujimoto does not disclose that the video camera "converts still images to moving image data". Further, Fujimoto's recitation of a LAN connection merely suggests *local* monitoring of the facility, as opposed to monitoring from a site other than the coin laundry store. Thus, the combined teachings of Kuroda and Fujimoto are away from the subject matter of claim 1, which recites that "the central control device [is] located at a site other than the coin laundry store".

Further, the combined teachings of Kuroda and Fujimoto do not teach or suggest video monitoring of a coin laundry store, in addition to monitoring data from the laundry machines, could take place remotely. Fujimoto provides no teaching or suggestion that capture modes can be switched in response to a condition inside or outside the store.

Fujimoto does not disclose that images captured by a video camera are transmitted outside the facility where the camera is located, and thus the images cannot be viewed in real time outside of the facility. To the Applicant, it seems that with Fujimoto's teachings, the captured images are stored at the facility where the camera is located, for review not in real time, but at a later time, in conjunction with the preservation of evidence in the case of wrongdoing.

Thus, the combination of Kuroda and Fujimoto does not teach capturing images with a network camera, which images are converted to moving images, the images being transmitted in real time to a central control device outside a coin laundry store, which allows an administrator at a remote location to observe the image in real time.

The claimed subject matter provides for a more efficient way to handle conditions and situations that need to be addressed. Examples of such conditions and situations are broken or inoperable machines, or misuse thereof. Machine resets or basic repairs can be effected or managed from off site, providing a remote management system that renders the machines as fully operational as is permissible under a remote management arrangement. The administrator can run through a problem solving checklist with a customer who has phoned in, or otherwise communicated the problem by other means, such as an intercom. Simple problems, such as the washing machine door being slightly ajar, can be

resolved by working with the customer. Alternatively, the network camera inside the store provides a means of visual observation of the machine, which quickly and efficiently informs the administrator of the problem at hand. Visual observation through video camera provides another avenue for a remote administrator to solve problems in the laundromat.

Furthermore, the claimed subject matter provides an arrangement in which a remote administrator can be alerted to suspicious or criminal activity at the laundry store premises. In the case of vandalism or theft, the perpetrators can be identified quickly through the video system. Data transmitted by the device controlling the laundry machines further allows the administrator to analyze the problem and develop a rapid solution.

Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, it is submitted that the rejection of claim 1 under section 103, based on the teachings of Kuroda in view of Fujimoto, is overcome.

REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

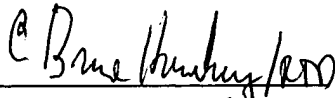
Applicant respectfully requests a three month extension of time for responding to the Office Action. The fee of \$1110.00 for the extension is provided for in the charge authorization presented in the PTO Form 2038, Credit Card Payment form, provided herewith.

If there is any discrepancy between the fee(s) due and the fee payment authorized in the Credit Card Payment Form PTO-2038 or the Form PTO-2038 is missing or fee payment via the Form PTO-2038 cannot be processed, the USPTO is hereby authorized to charge any fee(s) or fee(s) deficiency or credit any excess payment to Deposit Account No. 10-1250.


In light of the foregoing, the application is now believed to be in proper form for allowance of all claims and notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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